

[22 February, 2001]

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understanding of their views on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues, to deepen ties to friendship for the leadership of the two countries and to reciprocate their visits to India a year ago. In Vietnam, PM's visit served to convey India's confidence in Vietnam as a factor for peace and stability in the region and in Indonesia, to reiterate India's support for Indonesia's unity and territorial integrity at a critical moment in its history. In Indonesia, both leaders condemn fundamentalism and terrorism.

(c) Yes, Sir. Details of the Agreements are given below:

With Indonesia (1) Agreement on Cooperative Activities in the field of Defence, (2) MOU on the establishment of the Joint Commission on economic, trade and technical cooperation, (3) MOU in the Fields of Science & Technology for the period 2001-2003, (4) Work Plan under MOU for Cooperation in the field of Agriculture, (5) Cultural Exchange Programme for the years 2001, 2002 and 2003.

With Vietnam: (1) Agreement on Tourism Cooperation, (2) Protocol extending the Cultural Exchange Programme for three years, i.e. 2001, 2002 and 2003, (3) MOU between the Department of Atomic Energy of India and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment of Vietnam for peaceful uses of Atomic Energy.

In addition, business-to-business agreements were also signed in Vietnam and Indonesia respectively.

Loss of lives and properties in Nepal during anti-India turmoil

180. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the factors responsible for recent anti-India flare up in Nepal;

(b) the extent of loss of lives and properties suffered during the turmoil;

(c) whether any meeting of the Indo-Nepal Joint Commission has been held to consider issues of mutual interests so as to prevent recurrence of such unpleasant incidents in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) In the last week of December, 2001, demonstrations were held in Kathmandu and other places of Nepal protesting against a rumour concerning anti-Nepal remarks purported to have been made by Indian film star Hrithik Roshan. The rumour was without any foundation whatsoever and was denied by Mr. Roshan. The demonstrations took on an anti-India colour and resulted in damage to the property of people of Indian origin in Nepal. The manner in which these incidents were engineered gives rise to the suspicion that vested interests working against friendly India-Nepal relations were involved. A Commission of Inquiry has been set up by His Majesty's Government of Nepal for investigating these incidents.

(b) Four persons participating in the demonstrations and one bystander are reported to have died in police firing in Kathmandu on December 26. Another two persons died in Rajbiraj, in Saptari district of Nepal, in police firing on December 28. Assessment of loss of property has not been made by His Majesty's Government of Nepal.

(c) and (d) India-Nepal Foreign Secretary level talks were held in Delhi on January 30 and 31, 2001. The issue came up for discussion during these talks and the concern of the Government of India has been conveyed to the Nepalese side. Both sides agreed on the need to ensure that such incidents do not recur in future.

Anti-Hrithik demonstration's impact on Indo-Nepal ties

181. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any analysis in relation to the Indo-Nepal ties after the recent anti-Hrithik Roshan demonstrations in Nepal that turned out to be anti-India campaign with attacks on the people of Indian origin in Nepal besides withdrawing Hindi services of Radio Nepal and Nepal Television;